(b) whether there is any proposal under active consideration of Government to provide free STD facility in the country on the pattern of Delhi-Mumbai facility; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL has provided STD call at Re. 1 per minute from 1st March 2006 with monthly fixed charges of Rs. 299 per month under "BSNL One India" package. With effect from 1st November, 2006, BSNL has reduced the monthly fixed charges under 'BSNL One India' package to Rs. 180 with 50 free calls. MTNL Delhi and Mumbai have also launched 'One India' tariff plan providing Rs. 1 per minute STD call in the country w.e.f. 1/3/2006.

(b) At present there is no proposal to provide free STD facility in the country on the pattern of Delhi-Mumbai facility.

(c) BSNL is a Pan-India operator, offering services in both urban as well as rural areas and offers uniform tariff to all subscribers in accordance with Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) regulation prescribed by TRAI from time to time.

Lifelong free incoming calls

†128. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the license tenure of mobile service provider companies is 15 to 20 years and they are operating for the last 7-8 years but selling connection to a large number of people on the basis of lifelong free incoming calls;

(b) if so, when the licensing period of the mobile service provider companies is not going to last forever, how these companies are misguiding the customers; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action against these companies?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (c) The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) provides flexibility to telecom service providers to fix tariffs. Currently telecom operators are offering a number of alternative tariff plans targeted at different classes of subscribers. In the months of December 2005 and January 2006 most of the service providers implemented the tariff plans under the name and style of life time validity wherein in lieu of an upfront payment the subscribers are being offered life long validity subject to certain conditions. Such plans would be suitable for subscribers who would like to have longer validity without having to pay recurring fixed monthly charges. After a consultation process the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has prescribed regulatory conditions through the Telecommunication Tariff (Forty third Amendument) Order dated 21.03.2006, which *inter-alia* mandated:—

(i) The operators can continue to provide service in respect of lifetime scheme as long as they have permission to provide such telecom service under current license or renewed license;

(ii) Hike in any item of tariff during the specified validity period is prohibited; and

(iii) The service provider shall inform the subscribers of the month and year of expiry of his current license.

Operation of the ILISS

129. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integrated Land Information System Scheme is operational in the country;

(b) the financial/technical assistance given to various State Governments under the scheme till date;

(c) whether Government of Goa has approached the Central Government seeking financial assistance under the Scheme;

(d) the quantum of assistance sought sanctioned if any till date; and